

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1324

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Leadership Middle Tennessee Class of 2010 for laudable service to the good people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable organizations that encourage success and effective leadership by their participants; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Leadership Middle Tennessee, a regional leadership institute established in 1999, which serves the ten-county area of Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Maury, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson counties in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, entering the 21st Century, the communities of Middle Tennessee face many challenges in common with communities across the nation, as rapid growth and urbanization cause a blurring of traditional and historic civic boundaries; communities with sufficient foresight to recognize the changing dynamic will survive and thrive; and

WHEREAS, to succeed, Middle Tennessee's community leaders must develop a unity of purpose and meet regional challenges with regional vision – such is the mission of Leadership Middle Tennessee – to contribute to future planned and sustainable economic and community growth and development in the area by the participation of community, business, and government leaders in an annual regional leadership program and subsequent alumni activities designed to encourage and promote a regional perspective on current issues; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Leadership Middle Tennessee Class of 2010 are: Joe Craig, Dianna Shaw, and Judith Tackett of Cheatham County; Linda Baskin, Doug Brandon, Carlyle Carroll, Ed Owens, Michael Skipper, and Pam Thomas of Davidson County; Tony

Adams and Mary Denney of Dickson County; Brenda Pierce of Maury County; Carol Clark, Jim Durrett, and Jill Nolan of Montgomery County; Joshua Evans and Rod Kirk of Robertson County; David Bullock, Peter Demos, Bob Grimes, and Shane Reeves of Rutherford County; Scott Foster, Denise Geminden, Jules Wortmann-Pomeroy, and Gayla Zoz of Sumner County; Kent Cleaver, Dave Herrell, Kem Hinton, and Tuan Ta of Williamson County; and Hale Moss and Buddy Wootten III of Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Middle Tennessee is led by Chairman Jack Turner, of the Board of Directors, and enjoys the services of a full-time Executive Director located at Middle Tennessee State University, Susan Turner Taylor, who has served in that capacity since 1999; and

WHEREAS, focusing on leadership development and regional collaboration, Leadership Middle Tennessee's program consists of ten sessions plus an introductory session, commencing in September, with a special graduation ceremony in May; and

WHEREAS, the topics covered by the Class of 2010 were: Teambuilding and Regionalism; Healthcare and Quality of Life; Sports, Leisure and Tourism; Education and Workforce Development; Fort Campbell; Preservation; Technology Advancements; Natural Resources and Environmental Issues; Legislative: Public Policy, Politics, and Economic Development; Housing; Transportation; and Justice System and the Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, attending the monthly meetings at the various locations around Middle Tennessee and experiencing a number of unique situations as they braved extreme temperatures both hot and cold, the members of the Class of 2010 each shared a personal story about their life with the group; strong friendships and relationships have been formed as a result; and

WHEREAS, over the past year the members of the Class of 2010 of Leadership Middle Tennessee have repelled from the tower used for the Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, enjoyed cherries with a unique form of flavor and the musical talent from within the class that greatly exceeded expectations while in Dickson County; and

WHEREAS, in Maury County for St. Patrick's Day, the class came across a Keebler Elf look alike and visited a home with an alarming number of clocks; in Williamson County they

experienced great wit from a historian that could not manage to keep his content clean; and in each county visited they managed to close down a number of restaurant establishments while having late night strategic planning sessions while attempting to solve all the regional issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, the Class of 2010 had the distinct privilege of receiving a briefing from Major General John Campbell of Fort Campbell on their operations and upcoming deployment; the group later continued the finest tradition of the Volunteer State as they volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville to help in its recovery from flood damage; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Middle Tennessee also sponsors an alumni association of graduates, which, as it grows, will help leverage the benefits of the ongoing program by creating a growing network of local leaders with a regional perspective, providing a rich source of contributors to the curriculum of future classes as well as serving as a source for nominations of participants in future classes, and becoming an overall regional asset; and

WHEREAS, through all of its activities, Leadership Middle Tennessee has successfully provided a basis for the cities, communities, and counties of Middle Tennessee to work more effectively together and has empowered the Class of 2010 to enhance this effort; and

WHEREAS, the Class of 2010 of Leadership Middle Tennessee is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and this worthy group should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the Leadership Middle Tennessee Class of 2010 for their laudable service to the people of Middle Tennessee and this State, and thank Leadership Middle Tennessee and its graduates for striving to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.